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10 Aug 08 / 23:15

Dear Dad-

Thank you for sending the Bungie weekly updates. We have more free time on Sunday so I can sit around and read it.

Right now I am really sick. Almost everyone is. The drill sergeant said that every cycle, all the germs from everyone come together to create a nasty bug that over 80% of soldiers here get. Tomorrow I am finally going to sick call after the last week of taking cold medicine. :(

In the letter you sent, you were asking about different stages during my training. There are three: Red Phase, White Phase and Blue Phase. Right now we are at the tail end of Red Phase. By next Saturday we should already be in White Phase. Red Phase is more or less, an introduction to the ARMY / Military way of life; How to march, how to act in the chow hall, how to clean the bay, etc. Just last Friday, we completed victory tower. The rest of this week we are learning about chemical warfare, and this Thursday we hit the gas chamber! The drill sergeants keep telling us that all the people who are sick will get un-clogged. There is a surprising number of people actually looking forward to it! The next phase is White Phase which is mainly basic rifle marksmanship.

It's crazy to think that even though it's 11:00 p.m. here, that it's only 8:00 p.m. there.

11 Aug 08 / 20:07

Turns out we're allowed to receive pictures, so PLEASE SEND PICTURES! I want pictures of all you guys so I can hang them in my locker. Oh yeah, you guys have been doing really good addressing the letters. If you put my address online, let everyone know these rules:

- Have exact address
- Only black ink
- No stickers (on envelope)
- No notes on envelope
- Definitely no packages or food

I would say no contraband, but just don't send anything I don't request. :)

Turned out (after going to sick call) that I had a fever with my runny nose, dry throat and sinus headache. They gave me a "profile" for the next 5 days that states: I'm not allowed to do: running, crawling, climbing, push-ups, sit-ups, marching; just so they can keep my temperature down. The best part is that the sergeant can't make you go against a profile, and they can't deny a sick call slip. I just can't miss any mandatory training, or I could get re-started. Luckily, there wasn't any today.

- Kyle